



Nevada Desert Experience

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Interfaith Resistance to Nuclear Weapons

224151

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To: Surface Transportation Board

Regarding STB Finance Docket No 35106, Rail Construction and Operation—
Caliente Rail Line for the purpose of transporting nuclear material to the Yucca
Mountain Repository (proposed)

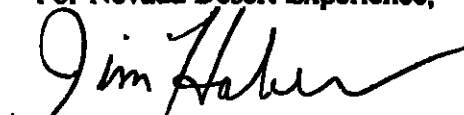
There are many practical reasons to question and oppose the Yucca Mountain nuclear repository. Many groups and individuals raise safety issues about transporting nuclear material of the nature in question over long distances or about moving such material near population centers. Another issue involves questions of the efficacy of Yucca Mountain as a site for such storage given the type of geologic formation it is.

Nevada Desert Experience (NDE) wants to add our voice to those raising such problems, but we want to go further than that. Our opposition stems more fundamentally from our recognition of this project as part of the nuclear weapons complex which threatens all humanity and life on Earth. Yucca Mountain is intended not as a waste dump, but as a long term storage facility. In a similar way that some nuclear weapons have been dismantled but not destroyed as part of complying with the terms of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) under which the United States is bound to act to reduce and eliminate our nuclear arsenals, Yucca Mountain isn't intended to be a place to remove waste from our midst forever, but is a storage place to be designed so the material there can be re-accessed for future use.

Even if Yucca Mountain receives "spent" fuel from civilian nuclear reactors, NDE recognizes such use as part of the nuclear weapons complex. No part of the nuclear fuel cycle is truly safe, nor is it independent of the nuclear war-making capabilities some in government want to increase. Every U.S. President has threatened nuclear strikes, even against non-nuclear weapon states, in violation of the NPT. Any project that serves to enhance our nuclear capability undermines our credibility as a force for peace in the world, as a party to treaties and as a respecter of international law. All parts of the Yucca Mountain Repository project—including work on the rail line to bring construction or nuclear material there—need to be opposed as part of this problem of nuclear war preparations and threats in addition to any practical or logistical problems that may exist.

For the sake of the planet and the sanctity of all life, Nevada Desert Experience opposes the Yucca Mountain repository and this proposed Caliente rail line.

For Nevada Desert Experience,


Jim Haber, Coordinator